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Online Submission

Mar 23 (21 days ago)

n To:

This plan would be extremely foolish and clearly predicated on serving the interests of the coal and CSG industry first. â€œAction 2.1.1â€ is ample proof of that.

Therefore it is not a plan for the Hunter in general, and should be rejected.

At a time when climate change is becoming so severe and so rapid that major increases in sea level are now being forecast to occur within 50 years it is irresponsible and completely unrealistic to predicate a future based on adding more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

I was on a door knocking team two weeks ago in Muswellbrook. We asked people to agree or disagree with three statements:

If coal mining had been of benefit to the Hunter
If the Government should approve new coal mines
If there is a need for a transition to a post-coal economy.

I have not seen the results of the other teams. We interviewed 32 people. They were evenly divided on the first statement. A clear majority agreed there should not be new coal mines.

However, every single person, without exception, even the most ardent supporters of coal mining, agree there is a need for a transition to a post-coal economy.

It is something that has been raised over and over again at all the recent PAC hearings. Iâ€™ve raised it myself at the T4 hearings twice. Iâ€™ve heard it said, Iâ€™ve seen it written almost daily in the Herald. Along with the fact that for the last few years, the coal market has been in structural decline.

We have witnessed a widespread movement across Australia of almost unanimous opposition to CSG.

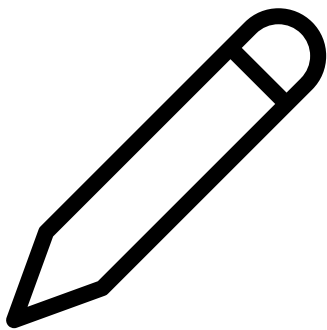
Yet none of this is seriously considered in this document! Unbelievable.

Likewise, there is no serious examination of renewable energy. The immense climate, land use, economic, social, health and educational benefits- as well as the fact that they are sweeping the markets before them across the globe is not considered.

Particularly for a draft document, that is designed to elicit input from the community, that is an inexcusable lapse.

This plan is rubbish, and it should have been foreseen that it is rubbish, and should never have been published- as a draft, it is a miserable embarrassing failure.

" Once extractive resource lands have been identiïed , there may be opportunities to identify interim activities that will enable lands to be used productively, without sterilising the future potential to extract the underlying resource. However, any land use changes contemplated in advance of the extraction of resources must be carefully considered."



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